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### U.S-Thai Security Cooperation

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- We have a longstanding, and very strong, relationship with Thai Military and security forces.
- This close partnership is evidenced by our many annual exercises, which is highlighted by the annual Cobra Gold exercise, which is the most important military exercise in the region.
- We also have numerous other exchanges and training programs with all branches of the Thai military. For example, hundreds of senior Thai military officers have received training, and there is even a Thai cadet enrolled at the U.S. Military Academy West Point
- We have assisted Thailand defending its sovereignty and independence. The US supported the Seri Thai during WWII. We were allies during the Cold War. Today, Thailand is part of the international coalition opposing terrorism.
- Our relationship was cemented when our two militaries worked side by side to provide disaster assistance to the region immediately after the December 2004 tsunami.
  - I think it is important to credit our alliance with Thailand for a great part of the success in working together to alleviate some of the suffering caused by the Tsunami last year.
    - Our cooperation in mitigating the damage in Phuket and Phang Nga, the speed with which we were able to turn Utapao Thai Naval Air Station into the hub for regional tsunami relief, and our ability to work together to save lives in Aceh and Sri Lanka was only possible because of decades of training together in exercises.
    - In Thailand, U.S. Navy aircraft and SEALs almost immediately joined the search and rescue effort. The SEALs used their special skills to search in hard-to-reach areas like mangrove swamps and on remote islands. The U.S. military carried over 3 million pounds of much-needed supplies and equipment to Phuket and Krabi. Our scientists and doctors joined hands with their Thai counterparts to tackle the devastating task of dealing with so many dead.

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- Now, we are using many of the lessons we learned during the Tsunami recovery efforts to assist in the Philippines in the aftermath of the horrific mudslide.
- Together, we must work to keep this relationship strong, so that when the call comes to help or to defend, we will be there.

### **Southern Thailand**

- We are concerned about the ongoing separatist violence in the far South.
- We consider this an internal Thai issue. We have no plans to become directly involved in the region.
- We have seen no clear evidence of direct foreign terrorist involvement.

### **RENDITIONS, SECRET PRISONS**

**Q: What is your reaction to the Council of Europe report on alleged CIA secret prisons and “outsourcing torture?”**

- These are the same allegations that have been repeated numerous times over the past two months. The facts have not changed:
- With respect to detainees, the United States Government complies with its Constitution, its laws and its international treaty obligations.
- The United States does not condone torture. Nor does it transport detainees from one country to another for the purpose of being tortured.
- We have also stated that as a matter of policy the U.S. will not authorize interrogations involving cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, as defined by U.S. obligations under the Torture Conventions, regardless of where those interrogations occur.
- The recently-enacted Detainee Treatment Act, which represents constructive cooperation between the executive branch and Congress and which received strong bipartisan support, codifies this policy and should send an important message underscoring the commitment of the United

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States to uphold the values of freedom and humanity on which it was founded.

- The United States works closely with allies around the world in facing the threat of terrorism. We respect fully the sovereignty of our partners as we collaborate to capture, detain and question terrorists.
- Rendition is a vital tool in combating international terrorism. It is not new. Renditions are permissible under international law and have been used by other U.S. Administrations and by other governments.
- This tool is consistent with the responsibilities of those governments to protect their citizens.
- As the Secretary has made clear, we need a more balanced dialogue on this issue, one which recognizes:
  - the serious threat posed by terrorists,
  - the appropriateness of making use of military and intelligence tools in confronting this threat, and
  - that most of the criticism, including unfortunately the criticism contained in this report, is based on misperceptions and not facts.

**[If pressed for specific comments on specific allegations:]**

- As regards specifics or locations, we have not changed our policy of not talking about intelligence matters.

### **THAILAND: PM THAKSIN'S RESIGNATION FOLLOWING ELECTION**

EAP PRESS GUIDANCE  
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Q: --Any comment on Prime Minister Thaksin's announcement that he will step down?

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- A: -- WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY STATED THAT IT IS UP TO THE THAI TO WORK OUT A POLITICAL SOLUTION, AND THAT WE ARE CONFIDENT THEY WILL RESOLVE THIS IN A PEACEFUL MANNER THAT RESPECTS THE RULE OF LAW AND WILL OF THE PEOPLE.
- DEVELOPMENTS TODAY SUGGEST THE THAI ARE MOVING TOWARD SUCH A RESOLUTION.

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